IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

LEE et al.

Appln. No. 09/697,123

Filed: October 27, 2000

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Group Art Unit: 1634

Examiner: D.B. Johannsen

FOR: RPOB GENE FRAGMENTS AND A METHOD FOR THE DIAGNOSIS AND IDENTIFICATION OF MYCOBACTERIUM TUBERCULOSIS AND NON-TUBERCULOSIS MYCOBACTERIUM STRAINS

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AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR § 1.111

July 15, 2003

Hon. Commissioner for Patents
MS Non-Fee Amendment
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action (Paper No. 13) mailed January 15, 2003, entry and consideration of the following amendments and remarks are respectfully requested.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Kindly enter these paragraphs.

Replace the paragraph spanning pages 12-13 with the following:

PCR amplification. The primer set used to amplify the region of the *rpoB* were 5'-TCAAGGAGAAGCGCTACGA-3' (RPO5', SEQ ID NO:25) and 5'-GGATGTTGATCA GGGTCTGC-3' (RPO3', SEQ ID NO:26) resulting in about 360-bp PCR product (base number 902 to 1261 and codon number 302 to 420 based on the sequence numbers for the *rpoB* gene of *M. tuberculosis*, GenBank accession No. p47766). The primer sequences were selected from the region of the *rpoB* genes that have been previously identified from *M. tuberculosis, M. leprae,* and *M. smegmatis* (12, 13, 22). The primers were made to amplify the region between the variable region and conserved region based on the genetic information for the *rpoB* gene of *Escherichia coli.* As a result, PCR products included 171-bp of variable region and 189-bp of conserved region. Variable